

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: March 22, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Budget and Finance

- *FY 2010/11 Budget* – At tonight's meeting I will present the Proposed FY 2010/11 Budget. The Town Council will review the proposed budget during the latter part of March and throughout the month of April. Interested residents are encouraged to see the Town's [website](#) for budget related information.

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *CCM Municipal Action Day* – Mayor Paterson and I will be attending this event tomorrow. Please see [item number 13](#) in your 3/22/10 Council packet for more information.
- *Labor Negotiations* – Please see [item number 11](#) in your 3/22/10 Council packet for a letter from Town Attorney O'Brien regarding strategy or negotiations in respect to collective bargaining.

Departmental/Division News

- *Human Services*
 - *Social worker recruitment* – The Town Council is invited to a reception to welcome Ms. Barbara Lavoie as our new Social Worker at the Mansfield Senior Center. The reception will be held at the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 30 at 10:00.
 - *Volunteer recognition program* – The Mansfield Senior Center Association has invited the Town Council to attend its volunteer appreciation day at the center, to be held at noon on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.
 - *Volunteer transportation program* - At its March 10th meeting, the Executive Committee of the Senior Center Association endorsed an option for a volunteer transportation program. The program would be co-sponsored by both the association and the Town, and would be coordinated by senior volunteers who would recruit volunteer drivers, maintain a database and schedule rides. Town staff would assist with all functions including ensuring annual driver training, vehicle inspection, and program promotion. Marilyn Gerling, Lida Bilokur (Association Volunteer) and Kevin Grunwald are working on developing the program and will present a more detailed proposal to the Executive Committee at its April 2010 meeting. We will keep the Council apprised of the progress of this initiative.
 - *WRTD transportation update* - Beginning on Monday, March 15, the Windham Region Transit District will operate a weekly bus trip from several senior residences in Mansfield to the Mansfield Public Library, Big Y, the Eastbrook Mall, the Willimantic Food Co-op and Walmart. The van will pick up riders at the Glen Ridge Retirement Community at 1:00 PM, and will then proceed to Juniper Hill and the Mansfield Senior Center to pick up additional passengers. The return trip will leave Walmart at approximately 2:45pm and should reach the library by 3:15pm. This trip is an expansion of a popular route that was discontinued last year when the funding was temporarily suspended. It is supported by a municipal grant from the State of CT Department of Transportation to the Town of Mansfield to expand transportation options for seniors and residents with disabilities. This grant is also used to fund rides to medical appointments that are located outside of the 10-town Dial-A-Ride region. There is no cost for this trip, but donations to the Town of Mansfield are appreciated to subsidize the cost of this service. Individuals who are interested in this trip should contact Dial-A-Ride at 860-456-1462. Additional information regarding transportation for seniors and residents with disabilities can also be obtained by contacting either

the Town of Mansfield Human Service Department at 860-429-3315, or the Mansfield Senior Center at 860-429-0262.

- *Mansfield Resident Trooper's Office* – On March 11, 2010, the Statewide Narcotic Task Force - East Field Office assisted by the Mansfield Resident Troopers Office & State Police, Troop C-Tolland executed a narcotic related search warrant at 1901 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT. This search warrant resulted in the discovery of a large scale marijuana cultivation operation and a hallucinogen psilocin mushroom lab at the residence. Investigators seized approximately 30 marijuana plants at various stages of cultivation, an amount of marijuana, hundreds of hallucinogenic mushroom spores, an amount of hallucinogenic mushrooms, numerous chemical components and materials utilized in the cultivation process of marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms. Four individuals were arrested for various narcotics related charges.
- *Planning and Zoning*
 - On March 13th, a number of Mansfield residents and staff members participated in a state wide Municipal Summit on Climate Action sponsored by The Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change with support from the Emily Tremain Foundation and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Sustainability Committee member and State Department of Environmental Protection staff member, Lynn Stoddard, served as a primary event organizer and as a speaker. Cynthia van Zelm, Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Gregory Padick, Mansfield Director of Planning conducted a workshop on Smart Growth Initiatives in Mansfield: Storrs Center Case Study. Other Mansfield participants included Sustainability Committee and Energy Education Team members Virginia Walton, Leigh Duffy, Coleen Spurlock and Dan Britton and Board of Education member Chris Kueffner. Information regarding state and municipal efforts to address climate change can be found at: <http://ctclimatechange.com/>
 - On March 18th, The Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies honored four Mansfield residents. Kay Holt and Betty Gardner of the Planning and Zoning Commission received Length of Service Awards and Gregory Padick, Director of Planning and Curt Hirsch, Zoning Agent, received Lifetime Achievement awards.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Probate Court Consolidation* – Last week my colleagues in Coventry, Tolland and Willington and I, along with Probate Judges Cheryl Brown and Claire Twerdy, met with Probate Court Administrator Paul Knierim to review various issues regarding the planned probate court consolidation. We did arrive at a name for the court – the “Mansfield/Tolland Probate Court” – but did not come to any decision regarding the location. Both the current Mansfield and Tolland Court locations have their weaknesses. The CEO's will prepare a communication to our respective Board of Selectmen and Town Councils to review the four potential options for the location of the consolidated court, and to solicit your input.
- *School Building Project* – On March 15, 2010 the Mansfield School Building Committee conducted a public information session on our Proposed New Community PreK-4 Elementary School and Mansfield Middle School Project. Several Council members were able to attend this session. The report was not well-received by the members of the public who were in attendance. This week, the building committee will debrief the public information session to determine whether there are additional issues that need to be researched; the Mansfield Board of Education has commenced its review of the report. Also, the League of Women Voters and the Mansfield Advocates for Children will sponsor a moderated forum on this topic, to be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in the Council Chambers here at the Beck Building.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, March 23, 2010, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Cemetery Committee, March 24, 2010, 3:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- School Building Committee, March 24, 2010, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, March 24, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, March 30, 2010, 2:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, March 30, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, April 1, 2010, 4:00 PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
- Ethics Board, April 1, 2010, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, April 5, 2010, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, April 5, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, April 5, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, April 6, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, April 6, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, April 7, 2010, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Emergency Management Advisory Committee, April 8, 2010, 9:30 AM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, April 8, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, April 12, 2010, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, April 12, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Meetings on the Budget:
 - Town Council Budget Workshop, March 25, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Town Council Budget Workshop, March 31, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Public Information Session on Manager's Budget, April 1, 2010, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Town Council Budget Workshop, April 5, 2010, 6:30 PM, Buchanan Auditorium, Mansfield Public Library
 - Town Council Budget Workshop, April 8, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Public Hearing on the Budget, April 12, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*